

Our Sunday Service Together

28th September 2025

15th Sunday after Trinity



Preparation

All: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.
Through the brokenness of Christ, we become one body
as one body we now gather in the name of Christ to offer our praise and thanksgiving, to receive God's
holy word, to pray for the needs of the world,
and to seek the forgiveness of our sins, that by the power of the Holy Spirit
we may give ourselves to the service of God.

Our Confession

Let us come to the light of Christ, confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

All: Jesus Christ, risen Master and triumphant Lord, we come to you in sorrow for our sins, and confess to
you our weakness and unbelief.

We have lived by our own strength, and not by the power of your resurrection.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven.
In your mercy, forgive us, hear us and help us.

Be still for a moment in confession and in receiving God's Grace in Christ

All: May Almighty God, who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us
our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his
kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Risen Lord. **Amen.**

The opening prayer

All: The night has passed, and the day lies open before us; let us pray with one heart and mind.

Silence is kept.

All: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire
with love for you; now and for ever. Amen.

The Psalms Psalm 146

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O my soul: while I live will I praise the Lord;
as long as I have any being, I will sing praises to my God.

Put not your trust in princes, nor in any human power, for there is no help in them.

When their breath goes forth, they return to the earth; on that day all their thoughts perish.

Happy are those who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the Lord their God;

Who made heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in them; who keeps his promise for ever;

Who gives justice to those that suffer wrong and bread to those who hunger.

The Lord looses those that are bound; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous;

The Lord watches over the stranger in the land; he upholds the orphan and widow; but the way of the wicked
he turns upside down.

The Lord shall reign for ever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen

Scripture Reading 1 Timothy 6.6-19

Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment; for we brought nothing into the world,
so that we can take nothing out of it; but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.

But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that
plunge people into ruin and destruction.

For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away
from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness.
Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made
the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius
Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the
manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and
only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords.

It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see;
to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the
uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to
do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of
a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

At the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

Gloria

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Gospel Luke 16.19-31

"There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried.
In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, "Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames."
But Abraham said, "Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony.
Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us."
He said, "Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment."
Abraham replied, "They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them."
He said, "No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent."
He said to him, "If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead." "

at the end of the reading we say:

All: This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

A Reflection for the day

I am sure you will say about Jesus' parable, 'I heard this one many times over the years'. Well, so had Jesus audience! This was an old folk tale which told of a reversal of fortunes in the afterlife. In many ways it sums up the 'blessings' and 'woes' passages of Jesus' teaching and demolishes a theology held by many Jews of Jesus' day and by some Christians today, that wealth is a clear sign of divine favour; and its absence a judgment in this life.

Instead of the wealthy man finding the afterlife reflected the glory of his earthly years his failure to use the riches he had to help the starving and sick fellow human being on his own doorstep saw him now gasping for sustenance in the torment of Hades. But, clearly the man is not all bad as seeing the error of his ways he seeks for his brother not to face the fate.

Jesus' telling of the parable takes a provocative twist at this point as Abraham (father of the faith) enters in conversation and confounds the rich man's assumptions about motivation. His words reveal Jesus' position that the people of his age knew enough from the scriptures to see that their behaviour was out of step with God's intentions and expectations – miracles and even resurrection will not convince them otherwise.

Israel's motives are judged, they are blinded to the reality of God's presence breaking into their age and lives. The promise of new life after judgment will not be enough to turn God's people from their descent into ruin.

Paul, in his letter to Timothy is filled with deep pastoral concern that both he and the church is with do not fall

from the path of Christ's teaching, descend into law based religion or into pagan practices and worship. Ironically here is some who, whilst not having died feels he has been resurrected into new life in faith in Christ Jesus.

Paul sees the risk the church might easily fall into the same love for wealth and honour that the rich man of the parable does, and finds all is lost in the end. Paul uses an interesting word in Greek – 'autarkeia', meaning 'a frame of mind that is content being oneself'. Content in oneself being 'in Christ' and not listening to all the world which says 'you do not have enough, you are not enough, you lack this, you amount to nothing in this world'. Paul's argument is that real riches are not found with external material things but within, with the Spirit of Christ to bring awareness of God's justice and compassion which both disturbs us, but also leads us to see and respond to the need of others at our door.

The Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Prayers

We make our intercessions

We pray for Bishop Michael and all those who seek to serve you in this diocese. We pray for the work to appoint a new Bishop of Taunton and Archbishop of Canterbury; may both be made in your wisdom and will, and may you build your church. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for world leaders, may they seek your kingdom and will on earth. Especially we pray for the leaders of Ukraine and Russia, of Israel and The Palestinian Authority that a just solution may be found for their disputes, and that they may become good neighbours to each other. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our King, Prime Minister, and local councillors that they may have the Spirit of wisdom, justice, truth and peace to lead our nation. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our families, friends, and neighbours that we may serve Christ in one another and seek the common good. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for those who suffer as a result of war and for those who work to relieve their suffering. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for the sick, suffering, dying and those who mourn and we give thanks and pray for those who care for them. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

We pray for our schools as they return after the summer break, for new staff and pupils. *Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.*

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

The Collect

All: God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Conclusion

All: Christ, as a light illumine and guide me this day.
Christ, as a shield overshadow me.
Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ beside me on my left and my right.
This day be within and without me. Amen